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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/045,881	01/11/2002	Yadunandan L. Dar	1993.VIN	1169
7590	03/16/2004		EXAMINER	
Thomas F. Roland			CHOI, LING SIU	
NATIONAL STARCH AND CHEMICAL COMPANY				
P.O. Box 6500			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Bridgewater, NJ 08807-0500			1713	
DATE MAILED: 03/16/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/045,881	DAR ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ling-Siu Choi	1713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 7-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-11, drawn to a dispersion, classified in class 526, subclass 89.
 - II. Claims 12-22, drawn to a free radical precipitation polymerization process, classified in class 526, subclass 227.
2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process such as a process of anionic polymerization.
3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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4. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Charles W. Almer on February 4, 2004, a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-11. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 12-22 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Objections

6. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 2, "contain greater than" is suggested to be changed to --contain on average greater than--..

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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7. **The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:**

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Caneba (US 5,173,551).

The present invention relates to a dispersion comprising

polymer particles / dispersion medium

wherein each polymer particle contains **greater than 2 living radicals** which are not chemically protected or capped

(summary of claim 1)

Caneba discloses a dispersion obtained by the steps of (1) forming an admixture of reactants including predetermined amounts of a monomer, a solvent, and a free-radical forming agent; (2) initiating a free-radical precipitation polymerization reaction **to form a plurality of polymer radicals**; (3) precipitating a polymer from the polymer radicals; (4) maintaining a polymer-rich phase of the admixture of reactants at a temperature above the lower critical solution temperature of the admixture, and (5) controlling the pressure and temperature of the

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adixture of reactants to control the rate of propagation of the polymer (claim 1). Thus, the present claim is anticipated by the disclosure of Caneba.

9. Claims 1-6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Caneba et al. [Clean Prod. Processes, 3, 55-59(2001)].

Caneba et al. discloses a disperse made by the polymerization of methyl methacrylate under conditions that preserve **some of the radicals** (page 55, second col.). Thus, the present claims are anticipated by the disclosure of Caneba et al..

Allowable Subject Matter

10. This application contains allowable subject matter (claims 7-10) because the prior art of record, either alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest a disperse having specific particle size or unmodal particle size distribution.

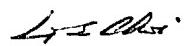
Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ling-Siu Choi whose telephone number is 571-272-1098.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu, can be reach on 571-272-1114.

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Ling -Siu Choi

March 5, 2004